

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 11-20 are pending in this application. By this amendment, Applicant amends Claim 11.

Claims 11-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Hosotani et al. (U.S. 6,469,913). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of Claims 11-20.

Claim 11 has been amended to recite:

A switching power-supply unit comprising:
an inductor or a transformer;
a plurality of switching elements arranged to switch a current flowing in the inductor or the transformer and to convert power by turning on and off the plurality of switching elements; and
a plurality of switching control circuits arranged to turn on a next one of the plurality of switching elements in accordance with a change of a voltage or a current generated due to turning off of one of the plurality of switching elements in an ON-state, to sequentially turn on and off the plurality of switching elements in accordance with each other, to repeat a series of on-off operations of the plurality of switching elements periodically, to determine an ON-period of each of the plurality of switching elements in accordance with a condition individually provided for each of the plurality of switching elements, and to control the ON-period of each of the plurality of switching elements; wherein
the plurality of switching elements includes at least first, second, and third switching elements;
the plurality of switching control circuits includes at least first, second, and third switching control circuits;
the first switching control circuit determines an ON-period of the first switching element such that a first output voltage is set to a predetermined value;
the second switching control circuit determines an ON-period of the second switching element such that a second output voltage is set to a predetermined value;
the third switching control circuit determines an ON-period of the third switching element such that a third output voltage is set to a predetermined value; and
the predetermined values of the first, second, and third output voltages are different from one another. (emphasis added)

The Examiner alleged that Hosotani et al. teaches all of the features recited in

Applicant's Claim 11. Particularly, the Examiner alleged, "Hosotani et al. disclose a switching power supply unit (figure 2) comprising: an inductor (L) or a transformer (T); a plurality of switching elements (Q1, Q2) switching a current flowing in the inductor or the transformer and converting power (V_{in} to V_o) by turning on and off the switching elements (Q1, Q2); and a switching control circuit (11, 12, 14, etc) that turns on the next of the plurality of switching elements in accordance with a change of a voltage or a current generated due to turning off of one of the switching elements in an ON-state (col. 11 lines 60-67; col. 12 lines 1-5), that sequentially turns on and off the switching elements in association with each other, that repeats a series of on-off operations of the switching elements periodically, that determines an ON-period of each of the switching elements in accordance with a condition independently provided for each of the switching elements, and that controls the ON-period of each of the switching elements (col. 12 lines 7-50)."

Applicant's Claim 11 has been amended to recite the features of "the plurality of switching elements includes at least first, second, and third switching elements," "the plurality of switching control circuits includes at least first, second, and third switching control circuits," "the first switching control circuit determines an ON-period of the first switching element such that a first output voltage is set to a predetermined value," "the second switching control circuit determines an ON-period of the second switching element such that a second output voltage is set to a predetermined value," "the third switching control circuit determines an ON-period of the third switching element such that a third output voltage is set to a predetermined value," and "the predetermined values of the first, second, and third output voltages are different from one another." Support for these features is found, for example, in the Abstract of the Disclosure, the second full paragraph on page 8 to the first full paragraph on page 9, and in Fig. 1 of Applicant's originally filed application.

Contrary to Applicant's Claim 11, Hosotani et al. teaches **only two** switching elements Q1 and Q2 and **only two** switching control circuits 11 and 12. Hosotani et al. fails to teach or suggest that the switching power supply device could or should include

any additional switching elements or any additional switching control circuits, and certainly fails to teach or suggest that the switching power supply device could or should include a third switching element and/or a third switching control circuit as recited in Applicant's Claim 11.

In addition, the switching power supply device of Hosotani et al. is capable of producing **only one** output voltage V_o (see, for example, Fig. 2 and col. 14, lines 3-20 of Hosotani et al.). Hosotani et al. fails to teach or suggest that the switching power supply device of Hosotani et al. could or should produce more than one output voltage. In fact, Hosotani et al. is clearly incapable of producing more than one output voltage.

Thus, Hosotani et al. certainly fails to teach or suggest the features of "the plurality of switching elements includes at least first, second, and third switching elements," "the plurality of switching control circuits includes at least first, second, and third switching control circuits," "the first switching control circuit determines an ON-period of the first switching element such that a first output voltage is set to a predetermined value," "the second switching control circuit determines an ON-period of the second switching element such that a second output voltage is set to a predetermined value," "the third switching control circuit determines an ON-period of the third switching element such that a third output voltage is set to a predetermined value," and "the predetermined values of the first, second, and third output voltages are different from one another" as recited in Applicant's Claim 11.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of Claim 11 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Hosotani et al.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that Claim 11 is allowable. Claims 12-20 depend upon Claim 11, and are therefore allowable for at least the reasons that Claim 11 is allowable.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance are solicited.

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The Commissioner is authorized to charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. 50-1353.

Respectfully submitted,

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